

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of a Bible verse about one resource of the God of the Bible. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme.

In this twelfth series, the Bible teaches five truths about God's resources. The topic of today's meditation and memorisation is: GOD'S WORD. We will meditate a new Bible passage, memorise a new Bible verse and then review the previously memorised verses together.

(S) **POINT 1. MEDITATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Psalm 119:105.

The memorisation verse is: God's Word. Psalm 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105.

(T) **First. The characteristics of God's Word.**

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. This Psalm is not characterised by a logic train of thoughts, but it is characterised by a description of God's Word as a rich *resource* for life. It deals with the law or Word of God as the fountain of blessing for God's people. "The law of the Lord" is described with different words, like God's laws, his statutes, his ways, his precepts, his decrees, his commands, and his word (1-9). In summary, all these words describe the Bible as God's revealed will, in which he gives us commands and principles how to live. Psalm 119 describes some characteristics of God's Word. Let us take turns to describe these characteristics.

(S) One. God's Word is indestructible.

God's Word is *eternal* (89). It has existed in God's mind from all eternity. God's Word is *ancient* (52). It is the most ancient revelation of God and his will to mankind on earth. It begins its revelation at the creation and the beginning of human history. God's Word is *enduring* (91). It has withstood the lies of false prophets and the attempts of political governments and the leaders of other religions to destroy it throughout all the centuries! And it will endure until the end of human history, when God will create a new heaven and a new earth on which only righteousness will live.

(T) Two. God's Word is the truth.

God's Word is the word of *truth* (43). It reveals the truth about God, the creation, man, sin, salvation and judgement! God's Word is *righteous* (75). It reveals the truth about what is just and what is unjust. God's Word consists of *good judgement* (66). It teaches not only Christians, but also political rulers, military commanders, judges and schoolteachers what is the truth and what is good judgement. And God's Word is *trustworthy* (86). Whoever believes the truth of the Bible and puts his trust in the God of the Bible, will never be put to shame (1 Pet 2:6)!

(S) Three. God's Word is boundless (96).

While the perfection of all the created things on earth has a limit, the Word of God has no limits! God's Word is not bound by time. In Matthew 24:35, Jesus says that this present heaven and earth will pass away, but his words will never pass away! While the rulers of this world may chain Christians like criminals in prison, 2 Timothy 2:9 teaches, "God's Word is not chained!" Although those who hate Jesus Christ try to prevent the spreading of Bibles and the preaching of God's Word, nobody can stop God to accomplish his purpose. In Isaiah 55:10-11, God himself teaches, "As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, *so is my Word* that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." God's Word is not bound by enemies and their persecution of Christians!

(T) Four. God's Word is good news.

God's Word consists of God's *promises of his unfailing love* for those he has shown grace (76). In John 3:16 is written, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

(S) **Second. The responsibilities of the Christian with regard to God's Word.**

Psalm 119 describes the responsibilities of Christians with regard to God's Word. These responsibilities are expressed in three ways:

One. Some responsibilities with regard to God's Word are expressed as God's will.

For example, Psalm 119:4 says, "God has laid down precepts that are *to be fully obeyed*." Verse 1 teaches that Christians should "*walk*" according to God's Word and verse 9 teaches that Christians should "*live*" according to God's Word.

(T) Two. Other responsibilities with regard to God's Word are expressed as a prayer to God.

Christians know that they are still sinners and weak and so they pray to God to give them grace to fulfil their responsibilities with regard to his Word. For example, in Psalm 119:18, the Psalmist prays, "Open my eyes that I may *see* wonderful things in your law." In verse 25 he asks that God *preserves his life* according to his Word and in verse 28 that God *strengthens* him according to his Word. In verse 34 and 35 he asks God to give him *understanding* of his Word so that he may obey it with all his heart. In verse 133 he asks God to *direct* his footsteps according to his Word, so that sin would not rule over him.

(S) Three. A few responsibilities with regard to God's Word are expressed as a commitment made to God by faith.

These are commitments every Christian should consider making to God as he meditates through Psalm 119! For example, in Psalm 119:11, the Psalmist says, "I have *hidden your word in my heart* that I might not sin against you." He makes a commitment by faith to put God's Word into his mind and heart by meditation and memorisation. In verse 46 he makes a commitment to *speak God's Word to kings* and other government officials even if they taunt (42) him. And in verse 63 he makes a commitment to *only make friends with people who fear God and follow his Word*.

(T) Third. The results of God's Word in the lives of Christians.

Psalm 119 describes God's Word as a fountain of blessing (1) for all people who read it, meditate on it, understand it and especially obey it! For example, Psalm 119:9 says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word." Every person who makes God's Word the final authority for what he believes and how he lives, will experience how God will *change his life completely*! Verse 11 teaches that following God's Word is the only way to *keep a person from doing sin*. Verse 24 teaches that God's Word is a person's best *counsellor*. Verses 98-100 teach that God's Word will make us *wiser* than our enemies. It will give us *more insight* than all our earthly teachers can give us. And it will give us *more understanding* than the leaders of our country have, because we will be able to see things from God's perspective!

(S) Fourth. Meditation of some of the passages in Psalm 119.

"God's Word" is the Bible. Psalm 119 is divided into 22 passages. Let us take turns to share from each of these passages.

In verse 1-8, the Psalmist is deeply aware that the way he lives his life is far removed from the demands of God's Word. There are times in which he has not been steadfast. Afterwards he has to appear before God and in shame confess to God that he has gone astray from his Word. Nevertheless, he does not give up to learn from God's Word and obey it.

(T) In verse 9-16, the Psalmist says that every teenager is usually threatened from all sides by temptations and can easily stray from God's pathways. But he also teaches that God's Word is the only means by which a teenager will not miss God's goal for his life (sin)! Therefore, he meditates, memorises God's Word and talks about it to other people.

(S) In verse 17-24, the Psalmist realises his utter dependence on God for understanding the spiritual truths in life. The natural man cannot understand the supernatural and eternal truths of God, unless God opens his eyes to see them. Spiritual truth is grasped only by faith in God and his Word.

(T) In verse 25-32, the Psalmist acknowledges that there are times in his life that he feels depressed and sad. He realises that when his feelings are low, he is more vulnerable to sin. Therefore, when he feels depressed, he prays and asks God to preserve his life according to his Word. And when he feels sad, he asks God to strengthen his life according to his Word.

(S) In verse 33-40, the Psalmist desires that God himself be his Teacher and Guide, because otherwise he is in danger of losing the right way. He prays and asks that God himself turns his heart towards his Word and turn his eyes away from every kind of worthless endeavour. He knows that he has before been involved in activities of selfish gain, like lying and cheating, stealing, robbery, extortion and violence. He knows that by nature his eyes always tend to turn to things which the world regards as valuable, but which God regards as worthless. The Psalmist realises that only God can cause him to walk according to his Word.

(T) In verse 41-48, the Psalmist prays and asks God to give him grace to courageously and boldly answer people who insult and scorn Christians, who trust and obey God's Word. He determines to speak God's Word to kings.

- (S) In verse 49-56, the Psalmist shows indignation at wicked people and situations where God's Word has been forsaken. Although arrogant people mock him mercilessly, he decides not to turn away from God's Word. Instead, he uses the words in the Bible to make songs and he sings them wherever he lives!
- (T) In verse 57-64, the Psalmist says that his greatest possession is to know the Lord and to belong to him. The greatest possible meaning in his life is obeying God's Word. Therefore, he has committed himself to obey God's Word. The whole direction of his life is determined by gaining God's favour and living in God's grace. Therefore, he continually evaluates his life in the light of God's Word and lets God's Word determine how he lives.
- (S) In verse 65-72, the Psalmist acknowledges that afflictions and persecution has led him to read and obey God's Word. He has made a commitment that, although the arrogant smear his life with lies, he will continue to do God's Word, because the school of suffering has taught him the value of God's Word. God's Word is more valuable than any amount of money on earth!
- (T) In verse 73-80, the Psalmist knows that because God created him, God is the only One who can give him understanding of his Word. He also knows that God has sovereignly led him into the school of suffering (75). God's promises of unfailing love and compassion in the Bible are his comfort.
- (S) In verse 81-88, the Psalmist experiences that suffering is not easy. But he also experiences that he cannot forget or forsake God's Word.
- (T) In verse 89-96, the Psalmist says that God uses his Word to preserve his people when they are persecuted. That is why they cannot and will not forget God's Word.
- (S) In verse 97-104, the Psalmist commits himself to continually meditate God's Word, because God's Word makes him wiser than his enemies, gives him more insight than all his teachers and gives him more understanding than all the leaders of his country!
- (T) In verse 105-112, the Psalmist says that he has submitted himself only to one guide in his life, and that is God's Word. He says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." He often experiences darkness on his life journey, and the danger of stumbling and falling lurks from every side. But if he walks by the light of God's Word, then he can see every danger and he can prepare himself for every difficult situation.
- (S) In verse 113-120, the Psalmist makes up his mind not to have anything to do with people who resist God's Word, so that nothing would be able to hinder him from keeping God's commands. Soon the final judgement of God will arrive and all the wicked on earth will be discarded like rubbish. Therefore, the Psalmist trembles in fear of God, because he does not want to be a part of these wicked people.
- (T) In verse 121-128, the Psalmist prays and asks God to act against all people who break his Word. He is truly sad and indignant when he notices how people ignore God and his Word.
- (S) In verse 129-136, the Psalmist experiences that the unfolding of God's Word gives light and understanding to the simple. When God's Word is correctly interpreted and explained, it teaches people the truth and the real nature of things and preserves them from being misled by mere appearances.
- (T) In verse 137-144, the Psalmist acknowledges that God rules all people and all things with righteousness through his commandments, which are completely right. He acknowledges that he has thoroughly tested God's promises and found everyone of them to be true! That is why he loves God's Word!
- (S) In verse 145-152, the Psalmist puts his hope in God's Word, especially in situations of persecution. Wicked people, who devise wicked schemes, are near to Christians, but they are far from God's Word. Moreover, God is also near to the Christians and whatever he has promised or commanded, will happen. God's word is true and it lasts forever!
- (T) In verse 153-160, the Psalmist prays to God to preserve his life according to his promises during the times he suffers. He makes up his mind not to turn away from God's Word when he is persecuted.
- (S) In verse 161-168, the Psalmist says that he does not tremble at the rulers who persecute him, but that he trembles at God's Word. However, his fear is accompanied by joy, because people who love God's Word have great peace and nothing can make them stumble. God's Word heals inward brokenness and outward broken relationships. And it preserves people from stumbling and falling.

(T) In verse 169-176, the Psalmist realises that he has often strayed from God like a lost sheep and so he pleads with God to seek him and deliver him from sin, just as God has promised in his Word.

(S) **POINT 2. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

Write the Bible verse on a card or in a notebook. The topic today is “God’s Word” and the reference is Psalm 119:105. Let us memorise the Bible verse together.

(T+S) God’s Word. Psalm 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105.

(T) God’s Word. Psalm 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105.

(T+S) God’s Word. Psalm 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105.

(S) God’s Word. Psalm 119:105. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105.

(T) **POINT 3. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks.

Series “God’s greatness”, verses 2-5 and series “God’s resources”, verse 1.

(S) God is all-glorious. 1 Chronicles 29:11. “Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom: you are exalted as head over all”. 1 Chronicles 29:11.

(T) God is sovereign. Ephesians 1:11-12. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:11-12.

(S) God is all-knowing. Hebrews 4:13. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13.

(T) God is all-powerful. Jeremiah 32:17. “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you”. Jeremiah 32:17.

(S) God’s presence. Hebrews 13:5-6. Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you”. So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?” Hebrews 13:5-6.

(T) **POINT 4. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on www.dota.net

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.